



# Improving Teacher Quality Federal Grant Program

*This report provides a brief synopsis of the planning for the 2005 Request for Proposals process to be conducted for the Improving Teacher Quality Federal Grant Program.*

*The Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. Its primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities. More information about the Commission is available at [www.cpec.ca.gov](http://www.cpec.ca.gov).*

Draft Commission Report

## Introduction

The Improving Teacher Quality Federal Grant Program 2005 Request for Proposals (RFP) will be targeted at academic literacy skills (including English as a Second Language) for high school teachers and students. Applications will be encouraged across subject matter areas, with particular attention to the needs of English Learners. The major goal of this initiative is to enable teachers to help their students develop academic literacy skills (e.g., critical reading/thinking/writing, strategies for understanding text book language, specific literacy techniques for specific content areas) to support high school success. A scientifically based research component will be included.

## Request for Proposals Process:

The RFP will be in two phases:

- Phase 1—Request For Proposals for professional development (PD) projects to serve teachers and their students.
- Phase 2—Request For Proposals for scientifically based research (SBR) on the effects of the interventions utilized in the funded PD projects. Phase 2 project selection will be completed before PD projects begin implementation (see calendar below).

Approximately seven to ten professional development project grants will be awarded; the number of SBR awards will depend upon the nature and scope of the underlying PD awards. The PD awards will be three-year projects; the SBR projects will track the PD projects and continue into a fourth year to capture student achievement gains generated in the final PD year. Award amounts will be approximately \$200,000 to \$250,000 per year for PD projects; funding for the SBR awards are expected to be about 50% of the underlying PD awards.

Professional development grant applications are open to all eligible institutions of higher education in California and require a partner Local Education Agency (LEA) such as a County Office of Education or School District serving grades 9-12. SBR grants are also open to all eligible Institutions of Higher Education (IHE), with or without professional development grants, and will also require partnerships with LEAs. Additionally, all LEAs working with PD grants will be required to commit to cooperate fully with the research projects.

### **Proposed Calendar for 2005-06**

*All dates subject to change*

#### Phase I:

- RFP advance notice by e-mail and online by mid-April with calendar highlighted.
- RFP mailed and online by mid-May (target date: May 9);
- Regional meetings for potential applicants in mid-late May;
- Letter of Intent to apply by early June;
- Proposals to be submitted by end of July.
- Evaluation from August 1-September 15;
- Awards announced by September 30.

#### Phase II:

- RFP online by mid-October (all institutions will have received mailed pre-notice with initial RFP; second mailing will go to those requesting it. In addition, e-mail notices will go to all IHEs in state).
- “Bidders’ Conference” held within 7-to 10 days of announcement.
- Proposals to be submitted by late November.
- Review of proposals, determination of awards by mid-December.
- SBR and PD projects officially begin simultaneously on January 1, 2006.
- SBR and PD grantees will confer in early 2006 on nature of data to be collected, how they will interact, etc.

Professional Development grants are expected to begin on January 1, 2006, and run through September 30 or December 31, 2008.

SBR grants will also begin January 1, 2006 and continue for one year after the initial PD grants end.